

Docket No.: 55071-131

**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of

Xuelong SHI, et al.

Serial No.:

Group Art Unit:

Filed: February 27, 2002

Examiner:

For: METHOD OF IDENTIFYING AN EXTREME INTERACTION PITCH REGION,  
METHODS OF DESIGNING MASK PATTERNS AND MANUFACTURING MASKS,  
DEVICE MANUFACTURING METHODS AND COMPUTER PROGRAMS

**CLAIM OF PRIORITY**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 120, Applicants hereby claim the priority of U. S. Patent Application No. 09/840,305, filed April 24, 2001, of which this application is a Continuation-In-Part, which claims the benefit of the priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) of:

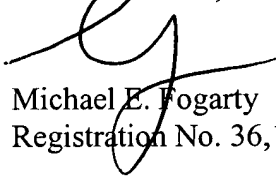
United States Provisional Patent Application No. 60/271,722, filed February 28, 2001



Acknowledgement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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